

Chairman and Ranking Minority Member waive the 48 hour waiting period or unless the Subcommittee Chairman certifies in writing to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member that, in his or her opinion, it is necessary to issue the subpoena immediately.

NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER A. HART

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I strongly support the nomination of Christopher A. Hart to serve as Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, NTSB. Today I joined the Commerce Committee's unanimous approval of his nomination and urge my colleagues to move quickly to confirm Mr. Hart as Chair of the NTSB.

The NTSB plays a critical role in objectively evaluating accidents in aviation, railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline transportation services. The NTSB forms extensive recommendations on future enhancements in transportation safety and is a great asset in improving the national standard for transportation security. Given how critical the NTSB is to public safety, I cannot stress enough the importance of the full Senate approving this role. As Chairman, Mr. Hart will provide needed leadership to guide the NTSB's work.

In New Jersey, the NTSB serves an essential role in improving public safety. Just last year, the NTSB moved quickly to launch a thorough investigation of a high-profile truck accident in June 2014. In addition, in response to the 2012 Paulsboro, NJ train derailment, the NTSB issued a comprehensive report with a number of needed safety recommendations. The NTSB's thorough analysis and review of these accidents significantly aids local governments, first responders, and Federal lawmakers in making important policy decisions to avoid future catastrophes.

Given the importance of the NTSB to New Jersey and across the country, I am proud to support a nominee to lead this organization with a breadth of experience in senior leadership roles in aviation and highway safety. Mr. Hart's proven leadership of the NTSB makes him uniquely qualified to lead this organization. I am proud to offer my full support for Mr. Hart, who I am honored to note upon approval by this body, will serve as the first African-American Chairman of the NTSB. Mr. Hart continues the tradition of his great uncle James Herman Banning, the first African American to receive a pilot's license issued by the U.S. Government in 1926. As a pilot himself, and a true public servant, Mr. Hart will help the NTSB continue making a substantial positive impact on American public safety. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO TYLER STEPHENS

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I wish to pay special tribute to Tyler Stephens, a key member of my staff on the Select

Committee on Intelligence. Tyler will leave us shortly to join the private sector. I am honored to have the opportunity to publicly thank Tyler and note my appreciation for his outstanding service to the United States Senate during the past 8 years, including his last 4 years of dedicated service to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

Tyler is one of the brightest and most talented individuals on Capitol Hill. He is also among the best connected, a testament to the high regard in which he is held. Beginning as a staff assistant for Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON in January 2007, he learned the Senate from the ground up and quickly rose through the ranks to his current position as a senior policy advisor on the Intelligence Committee. Tyler spent most of his time in the Senate as a close personal adviser to Senator Saxby Chambliss, my dear friend and colleague, on both his personal staff and throughout Saxby's tenure as the vice chairman of the Intelligence Committee. Tyler worked hard to establish his expertise as a policy and appropriations advisor on foreign relations, defense, homeland security, commerce, transportation, energy, environmental, and technology issues. On the Intelligence Committee, he quickly became a respected subject matter expert on a wide range of national security issues, including counterterrorism, covert action, and cybersecurity. As impressive as Tyler's resume and experience are, it is his personal dedication and quick wit that often carry the day. In an environment filled with threat briefings, hostile nation states, and post-9/11 conflict, it is often easy for some to dwell on the negative. Not Tyler—the consummate team player and totally mission-oriented—no challenge has been too great and no objective too small. His great sense of humor, contagious chuckles, and mischievous grin often lightened the mood and helped those around him perform better during stressful situations. With his boundless energy and enthusiasm, he made it all look easy.

My colleagues and I trust Tyler's judgment implicitly. He has played a key role in helping committee members develop successful legislative strategies for resolving difficult national security issues. He was also particularly helpful to me during my transition as the chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence at the beginning of this Congress. Tyler's dedicated public service and exceptional day-to-day performance on the job have earned our respect and admiration, and it inspired a generation of staff who had the privilege to work alongside him. There is no doubt that Tyler has a bright future in the private sector; however, should the right opportunity present itself, I would strongly encourage my Senate colleagues to entice him back into public service. We will miss Tyler deeply, but his legacy will remain a part of the

Senate Select Committee on Intelligence for years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO NEIL ROBERTSON

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to a Connecticut resident who recently demonstrated extraordinary capability and heroism. Officer Neil Robertson of the Norwalk Police Department was on patrol this past Tuesday, February 24, when he drove by a railroad crossing and noticed a vehicle partially stopped on the tracks. He also saw that a train was approaching. The driver of the vehicle, who may not have been aware of the train, was unable to move forward because of gridlock in the intersection ahead. Officer Robertson quickly and accurately judged the impending danger. He immediately leapt from his car and directed traffic to move forward, allowing the driver of the stuck vehicle to escape the path of the oncoming train just seconds before it passed through the crossing.

Officer Robertson is a 4-year veteran of the Norwalk Police Department. He deserves the highest praise not just for his choice to enter a career in public service but for his speedy and decisive actions to avert a potentially disastrous accident. I know that all of Connecticut joins me in honoring and thanking him for his exemplary performance in the line of duty. •

INDIANAPOLIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 125TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the hard-working members of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce as they celebrate 125 years of creating jobs, building Indiana's economy, and improving the lives of Hoosiers all across our State.

Originally called the Indianapolis Commercial Club, the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1890 by COL Eli Lilly to address needs brought on by urban expansion in Central Indiana. The rapid expansion of industry and transportation in the region at the time left what had been a rural population with insufficient infrastructure to meet the needs of the growing city. The steadfast response of these leaders to remedy this situation represents the determination and ingenuity that the Indy Chamber continues to exhibit today.

The 1912 merger of this group with like-minded business organizations, including the Manufacturers, Trade and Merchants Associations, became what is today known as the Indy Chamber. While the economic landscape has changed significantly, the Indy Chamber of today stays true to its earliest vision of boosting area businesses and growing industry and investment throughout the Indianapolis area.